(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House

Restructuring of ITI Limited

283. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a Proposal to restructure the ailing Public Sector Telecom giant ITI Ltd :

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some companies have submitted their offers in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Mainly on account of competitive environment and fall in prices of telecom equipment, ITI suffered losses during 1994-95 and 1995-96. Therefore, with a view to conduct an indepth study of the organisation and adopt changes to turn around the company is considering a proposal to engage a suitable consultancy firm. The restructuring and strategies are being considered with reference to business of the Company, its organisation and financial aspects.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir.

The following Companies have submitted offers :-

1. M/s Arthur D. Little, Bombay
2. M/s Richer Consultancy Services, Delhi;
3. M/s Coopers & Lybrand, Bombay
4. M/s COSMODE, Hyderabad
5. M/s SFCG, Division of KPMG Peat Marwick, Bombay
6. M/s Price Waterhouse, New Delhi
7. M/s ICICI, Bombay

The Government is considering the proposal of ITI for appointing a consultancy firm.

Eligibility of Bonus

284. SHRI AJAY CHAKARABORTY :
SHRI A.C. JOSE :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the workers in the industries to which the payment of Bonus Act is applicable have been demanding to amend the present Act so as to abolish the eligibility ceiling for payment of Bonus;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government propose to amend the Bonus Act in this regard and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) The Central Government have been receiving representations from trade unions for abolition/revision of eligibility limit in the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965

(b) and (c) The Act was last Amended only in 1995 raising the eligibility limit from Rs.2500/- per month to Rs.3500/- per month and Calculation ceiling from Rs. 1600/- per month to Rs.2500/- per month. There is no proposal for further amending the Act at present

[Translation]

Training Centre of Indian Institute of Mass Communications

285. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made so far in the construction of Indian Institute of Mass Communications training centre at district Jhabhua in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Land for IIMC branch at Jhabua has been acquired by the institute. It is proposed to include the construction of buildings in the 9th Five Year Plan.

Air Space Facility to India

286. PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether inspite of signing bilateral agreement some countries are not allowing India to use their air space;

(b) if so, the names of those countries;

(c) whether the Government have raised the issue with those countries; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d). Some of the Arab Countries like